

The third stocking really does duty as a bandage, since it was devised to replace the adhesive strapping and roller bandage used in putting up a Buck's extension when for any reason—for example, abraded or reddened skin—such a dressing may seem inadvisable. With weights fastened to the straps at the lower margin of this stocking after it has been snugly laced from ankle to knee, the same even traction may be made as when the spiral adhesive bands are used, though a little closer vigilance must be exercised, for the stocking slips and becomes loosened from time to time. One advantage worthy of mention is the possibility of dressing the painful areas that are occasionally seen after a leg has been in extension for a very long time, and at the same time keep up the extension by applying this stocking over the dressing, thus relieving the local discomfort without interfering with the treatment.

TRAY RACK.

The tray rack is a simple affair fashioned of bent wire with the idea of holding the covering over a tray of nourishments or a patient's meal, well above the dishes and their contents. (Fig. 12.) It consists of a rectangle approximately the size of the tray, with six legs about four inches long, one at each corner and one on either side. With the wire curved a little at the extremity of each leg it is possible to rest two on top of the tray and slip the other four just under the edge, thus securing the rack while the tray is being carried from diet-kitchen to patient, after which it is easily removed.

WHAT REGISTRATION OF NURSES WILL DO FOR THE PUBLIC *

By CONSTANCE V. CURTIS

Superintendent Phoenixville Hospital and Vice-President of the Graduate Nurses' Association, State of Pennsylvania

THERE has been a great deal said and written of what registration will do for nurses and the medical profession. Very little has been said of what benefit it will be to the public. I will try to show some of the many advantages the public will gain from State registration of nurses.

We, as a nursing body, know of the many shortcomings and deceptions practised by those who falsely represent themselves to be trained nurses. The country is flooded with them. These women, sometimes,

* Read at the meeting in Wilkes-Barre.

have been in a hospital only from one to six months, and have then been dismissed for improper conduct. They were wholly unreliable and unfit to care for the sick. They cannot belong to our profession without being discovered, though sometimes we do not discern their deception until they have made serious mistakes.

Unfortunately, our profession offers to women who are unprincipled and insincere an opportunity to take up the work as a cloak. On the other hand, fortunately for the profession, the women who have charge of training-schools for nurses have developed so keen an insight into human nature that they discover such deception and dismiss women of this type, though they may have remained in the hospital long enough to pick up sufficient information to be able to pose as trained nurses. They will wear a uniform and assume all the assurance of manner of one who had been thoroughly trained.

A case of this nature came under my personal observation. She posed as a trained nurse. She had a very sweet, plausible, and impressive manner. She took charge of a very serious typhoid-fever patient, who was taken sick quite a distance from home and among strangers. A friend wrote to the patient's family and told them that he had typhoid fever, but had an excellent nurse and a good doctor. When they heard this, having had the utmost confidence in trained nurses, his friends felt at perfect ease in regard to his condition. When a member of the family went to see the patient she began questioning the nurse as to where she studied nursing, etc. After trying very hard to evade the questions, it was discovered that she had never been inside of a hospital as a student nurse.

She had neglected her patient dreadfully, and when he tried to complain to the doctor she would say he was delirious. She had never given him a bath. The patient had a bed-sore. She would not give him ice, milk, or water. What few friends he had, she would not allow in to see him, saying he was too ill to receive visitors. He said no one knew what torture he went through with the nurse.

When the physician who had charge of the case was asked why he engaged such a person, he said she told him she was a trained nurse, besides, she wore a uniform and some kind of a badge. He was much surprised when he was told how she had neglected her patient and his orders. The patient said he would hear the doctor tell her to give him ice and water, and then she would not give it. She was such an impostor that she had thoroughly hoodwinked the doctor. She made him believe she was carrying out his orders perfectly, and had the audacity to charge twenty-five dollars per week!

It is from women of this type, and of others who have a great

many more serious faults, and I may say vices, from whom we are anxious to protect the public. We desire the public to know just how important it will be to ask, "Are you a registered nurse?"

What person would be willing to trust a dearly loved member of his family to be nursed through a serious illness or operation by such an individual as I have described above? The public are being continually exposed to such frauds. They do not know what measures to take to protect themselves. It is very hard to properly discriminate between real worth and pretence. The public are not always in a position to judge.

If you find you have been duped with one of these fraudulent nurses, and you have trusted her to care for some member of your family that is dear to you, you will be willing to exert yourself to the utmost in helping us to secure State registration of nurses. After registration a record will be kept so that we can know each year if our nurses are living up to the standard of our profession.

Our standard must be high. The woman who enters the profession must be noble and broad-minded in order to be able to meet the demands made upon her and be a help to mankind.

State registration will bring about a more uniform standard in the teaching and requirements in our training-schools. It will bring them into more harmonious contact with each other. All these advantages will have far-reaching, broadening, and beneficial effects. It will awaken new interests in our women. They will read and study more, and will keep pace with the rapid advancement in the education of nurses, which is increasing each year.

Now, I hope that everyone knows and understands that we do not wish to keep anyone from nursing. A very prominent man said to me he did not know whether he approved of State registration of nurses or not, as he might be sick and might want his wife to nurse him. He did not think we should have a law permitting only trained nurses to care for the sick. Nor do we. Anyone who wishes to do so may nurse, and any person is at perfect liberty to have anyone nurse him whom he may wish. The only thing we ask is that she nurse under her true colors. If she has been in a hospital one or two months, let her say so, but do not let her sail under false colors by wearing a uniform and charging trained nurses' prices.

At one time nurses were regarded with distrust and people had them as necessary evils. At present the public, from the richest to the poorest, appreciate their great worth and deny themselves comforts that they may have their sick well cared for. They are given unbiassed and unquestioning confidence. The true, whole-hearted, unselfish, acceptable

nurse is worthy and deserving of all the confidence that can be bestowed upon her.

Our profession is one which exacts honor and a strict code of ethics. We need to be self-critical, and in this way we will learn what our needs and defects are. One of the most serious faults of human nature is to feel no doubt of one's self-competence.

Weir Mitchell says, "There is a limit to everyone's intellectual or technical attainments, but there is none to one's growth in goodness."

Another famous doctor says: "All physicians, especially the hospital men, appreciate the indispensability of the trained nurse. It never stands in the operating-room without a sense of gratitude and admiration for the splendidly trained women about him. The preëminent position which American surgery occupies in the world to-day is very largely due to the superior intelligence and education of the faithful women who assist in the operating-rooms and wards."

SPECIAL COURSE IN HOSPITAL ECONOMICS—1904-1905

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, TEACHERS COLLEGE, NEW YORK

THE course in Hospital Economics has for its purpose the preparation of trained nurses who have the necessary qualifications to be teachers in training-schools for nurses and superintendents of hospitals and training-schools. Its aims are to eventually bring about a uniformity in training-school curricula and methods which shall make the training of a nurse practically the same in every training-school connected with a general hospital in the country.

The American Society of Superintendents of Training-Schools for Nurses is responsible for the development of the course, and in order to secure a carefully selected group of students it has appointed a Board of Examiners of experienced superintendents to receive and to pass upon the names of all candidates for the course. The examiners first consider the qualifications of candidates as practically trained nurses on the basis of their certificates and of statements from the superintendents of the schools from which they have been graduated. In addition, the Board of Examiners requires (a) evidence of the satisfactory completion of an approved course (1) in a secondary school, normal school, or college, and (2) in a nurses' training-school—this latter to include anatomy, physiology, materia medica, applied bacteriology, and urinary analysis, together with the general knowledge of practical nursing obtained from a two- or three-year course in a general hospital; and (b) that the candidate shall have held some position of responsibility in a